

National Birth Defects Prevention Study Protocol for Determining Estimated Date of Delivery (EDD)/Date of Conception (DOC)

The National Birth Defects Prevention Study uses information regarding the EDD/DOC to structure the interview process. For example, if the DOC is estimated as 10/1/97, questions regarding exposures three months prior to conception will specifically ask about exposures which occurred beginning in the month of July, 1997. Therefore, it is important that the manner by which these dates are estimated is consistent among the Centers. The following hierarchy is to be used by all Centers for Birth Defects Research and Prevention in the determination of EDD/DOC for participants in the National Birth Defects Prevention Study:

- I. When possible, the EDD reported by the mother in the interview should be used.
Note: If the mother was given multiple EDDs by her health care provider, the last estimate of this delivery date should be used.
- II. If mother does not know the EDD, information obtained through medical record abstraction will be used. An estimate (based on the hierarchy below) of the EDD should be entered into the tracking database by the study coordinator when a case is referred for interview. Then the date will be available to structure the interview, when needed for mothers who do not recall the EDD during their interview.
 - A. If available, use the EDD noted in the medical record. *Note:* If multiple EDDs are given in the medical record, use the last estimate of the delivery date.
 - B. If the EDD is not available, other information in the medical record can be used to calculate an EDD, following the guidelines listed below. Indicators which may be used, from most to least reliable, are:
 1. ultrasound < 14 weeks
 2. last menstrual period
 3. ultrasound > 14 weeks, < 27 weeks
 4. standard neonatal exam
 - a. The early ultrasound is the "gold standard" for EDD/DOC dating. It should always be used if it is available.

- b. If the early ultrasound is not available, use the best 2 out of 3 indicators
(above) that agree. (Agreement is defined as +/- 7 days in the first trimester, +/-14 days in the second trimester.)
- c. If no indicators agree, use the indicator that is highest in the hierarchy listed above.

C. If the pregnancy was achieved via assisted reproductive technology (ART), it is

likely that the EDD can be obtained either from the mother via interview or from the medical record. If not, the EDD can be determined from the LMP (the date of the ART procedure is typically scheduled based on the woman's menstrual cycle and therefore LMP will offer a reliable indicator of the DOC/EDD). Otherwise, the EDD can be estimated from an early ultrasound (a procedure very likely to have been performed in an ART pregnancy).